



C. Earl Hunter, Commissioner

*Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment*

## **MEMORANDUM**

March 3, 2010

To: Asbestos Groups, Building Inspectors, Management Planners, Contractors, and Training Providers

From: Robin S. Mack, Asbestos Section Manager

RE: Department position regarding composite sampling and analysis of joint compound/wallboard

On February 25, 2008, the Department issued a memorandum defining the Department's position on composite analysis of joint compound/wallboard. Since that time, the Department participated in a pilot project where buildings were demolished with joint compound left in place. Composite analytical data for the joint compound/wallboard that was left in place indicated that the joint compound contained 1% or less asbestos. Therefore, the Department agreed to proceed with the demolition project without considering the joint compound an asbestos containing material. Air monitoring was performed during the demolition activities associated with the pilot project by the contractor and the Department.

Analysis of the samples gathered during the project revealed positive results during multiple events, including demolition activities where wet suppression was utilized. After reviewing the air monitoring data gathered during the pilot project and taking into consideration the Occupational and Health Administration's position that joint compound and sheetrock are separate materials and should be analyzed separately for their asbestos content, the Department has decided not to allow for composite sampling or analysis of wallboard/joint compound.

This position will be effective immediately. As with any Department determination or guidance, these determinations are not intended to relieve you from compliance with requirements from other Agencies that are more restrictive.